

Medway Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) Update Task Force

Medway Town Hall, 155 Village Street, Medway MA 02053

MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2018 – 7:00 PM

Members present: Matthew Hayes, Chairman, Paul Atwood, Denise Legee, David Blackwell, and Cindy Sullivan

Absent: Glenn Trindade, Paul Mahoney

Staff present: Susy Affleck-Childs, Mackenzie Leahy, David D’Amico and Tracy Rozak, Recording Secretary

Also present: Anne Capra, consultant from Conservation Works
Jim Wickis, Open Space Committee

Matt Hayes, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

1. Discuss revisions on drafts of Sections 3 & 4

Susy stated that Mackenzie Leahy had found the Medway history book and it was provided to Anne Capra today. Susy also sent Anne some information about farm animals from Medway’s Animal Control Officer. There is a permitting process for having backyard chickens that is tied to the size of the property and varies per zoning district. Anne stated she made the changes that they talked about at the last meeting and will review the information that was just given to her and she will create a draft of the whole plan together as it is easier than doing it piece by piece.

2. Review first draft Section 5 - Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

Anne stated she received some great data from Mackenzie and is just processing it now. She would like feedback from the Task Force tonight before she does a draft of Section 5.

Susy stated the Task Force is also meeting with Town Counsel on February 26th about the railroad right of way. March 12th is the community forum and then there will be another task force meeting after that. Anne would like to synthesize everything at the community forum and draft an action plan based on the community input and then dig into it at the task meeting.

Anne stated she has been working with Mackenzie on the draft maps and we can look at those with the final draft. Anne stated she needs more information on agriculture as she would like to write a narrative about agricultural in Medway. Anne will send what she has to Paul Atwood, a member of the Agricultural Commission, so he can review it. Paul only has information on the Chapter 61 properties right now. Susy stated that the Assessors have a Land Use Code book from the state and every piece of property is categorized using a uniform code from town to town - commercial, industrial, residential, agricultural etc.

3. Review first draft Section 7 –Analysis of Needs

Anne stated that in preparation of the analysis of needs section and the community forum she needed to process all of the data together. She created a map called the Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest. **(See Attached Map)**. This map shows all Town of Medway parcels in dark green, the Army Corp of Engineer parcels in light green, nonprofit and religious parcels in orange, utility companies in pink, and private lands of conservation & recreation interest in yellow. She noted there are 5 parcels with conservation restrictions of which two will be owned by the Conservation Commission. The Chapter 61 lands are all grouped together and shown in purple. The CPA funded properties are incorporated into the green town of Medway properties. Chapter 61 are working agricultural lands and 61B are open to the public for recreation and are taxed by the use of the land. In addition to the map, the MA DCR requires that the OSRP include a table that shows all Town owned properties, the site name & address, the type of use, condition and the funding used to acquire it. (See Table).

Anne stated that in order to assess properties for future land use we need to know where growth can occur. Anne displayed another map on the projector and stated that in 2012, the 495 MetroWest Development Compact identified priority development sites. Medway also has several 43D expedited permitting sites. **(See Attached Map)** The purple section (495 MetroWest Development Compact) is for major developments. Chicken Brook and the Marion parcel in the north central part of town are identified as priorities for protection. Anne noted there is a conflict between some of the parcels - are they priority protected or priority development? Anne stated that some of the orange parts are wetlands so they won't ever get developed. Anne created another map which shows the natural resources in town including streams, certified vernal pools, aquifers, DEP delineated "zone 2" for the wells. **(See Attached Map)**. She stated there are many reasons why you would want protect open space but an important one is for a property's ecological importance. Anne stated we need to ensure our ecosystem is working properly because we cannot live without it. It is important to know where groundwater resources are located especially in a water shortage town such as Medway. Of these, which parts are protected? Of the zone 2 aquifers - only a small portion are protected. We don't allow anything that generates hazardous waste in the Zone 2 areas but we allow other uses. Anne stated that some of the priority development sites are in zone 2 and that is a conflict.

Anne stated that she understands farmland protection is one of the priorities of the community. They are important for growing food as well as an important part of Medway's history. Anne showed a map of farmlands within the community – they are shown as the green areas on the map. **(See Attached Map)**. There are 3 categories of farmland according to the USDA - prime farmland, statewide farmland and unique farmland soils. One of the purple areas on the map is a chapter 61 parcel and the others are 61B. The target farm land in Medway is not on prime soil but it is historic and culturally relevant to the community. The red sections are private lands of conservation and recreation interest and there is some overlap. The Town of Medway protected lands are shown in red hatching. The Medway Community Farm is located on prime soil.

Anne asked if the prime parcels in Zone 2 areas should be our number #1 parcels. We need to be sure our priorities are correct and to understand the reasons why we want to protect them. Anne asked if we want to have drinking water in the future or preserve historical farmland. Anne also showed a map of the wildlife habitats of Medway that includes the wetlands bio map, critical natural landscapes and endangered species. **(See Attached)** Natural Heritage produces the bio map. The bio map shows core habitats where rare species and/or certain types of natural communities live. It is their primary habitat and they cannot live without it. The area around it shows the upland habitats. Some of the priority habitats are also a priority for conservation so there is some overlap. Anne would like to go over these maps at the upcoming Community Forum.

Susy stated that Medway hasn't really discussed acquiring land just for the sake of protecting it. Mackenzie explained that the CAPS (Conservation Assessment Planning System) map is a program developed by UMASS Amherst. CAPS is an index of ecological integrity and it shows the top 50 % of the landscape. The Wicket property is listed as a priority. Susy stated we might want to revisit the Open Space Committee's land evaluation scoring criteria because a lot has changed since the last OSRP was prepared in 2009/2010. Anne asked the group if any of the information in the narrative of natural resources (section 3, 4 and 5 and in 7) is inaccurate.

4. Planning for Community Forum # 2 Monday, March 12, 2018

- **Trial run of GIS overlay analysis to identify priority parcels for protection/development**

Anne would like to present the map information and ask the community what their priorities are. She thinks we should show them the goals and objectives from 2010 and see if they are still valid. Anne thinks the existing 7 OSRP goals from the 2010 plan are too many and we should narrow it down to 3-5 goals. Some of the goals can be consolidated as there is some redundancy among them. Anne stated that the draft plan has to go to the state and include comment letters from the chief elected official, the planning board and the regional planning agency. You have to document that there was a public process. It would be nice to have the plan be endorsed by the Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen, but it is not required by the state.

- **Discuss draft agenda**

Anne distributed a draft agenda for the forum. **(See Attached)**. Susy asked if we should revise the wording. Anne suggested dropping the goals and objectives section and stated the time for the survey results could be shorter. The small group activity sections will be similar to the first forum. They will have a big base map that they can review. We could ask what are your top 3 areas for protection based on the existing evaluation criteria. We also want community input about where farms are located in the community so we can develop a complete inventory. Anne will use a flipchart to keep track of ideas and strategies suggested during the forum. The Task Force also reviewed the draft flier **(See Attached)** and decided to remove the section on action plans. There was a brief discussion on ways to get more people to the next forum. They will put the information in the newspaper and on the website. Matt mentioned the Shamrock Shuffle, a very popular 5K race (March 10th). Maybe someone could pass out fliers to people at the finish line or at a refreshment table. Some suggestions were passing out fliers

at Starbucks, The Muffin House, the Senior Center and Police/Fire Departments. Another suggestion was to post it on The Friends of Medway Facebook page and Town of Medway Facebook page. Cindy stated she will talk to the School Committee about sending out the flier through the schools. She also mentioned that each school has their own Facebook page and maybe the forum could be noted there. It was also suggested to bring fliers to the election on March 6th and any school events coming up.

5. Finalize Date and Location for Land Management Workshop -Saturday 4/28/18, 9- 3pm at Charles River Amphitheatre and Medway Town Hall.

It was decided to change the workshop date to Saturday, 5/5/18 as April 28th is the Town's Clean Sweep event. Anne will check with her partners on their availability. If the May date does not work for them, we should keep it as 4/28/18. Anne mentioned if it rains, they could go into the Town Hall with a power point presentation. If it clears they could assess one small area. They should plan on going into the Town Hall or another building for lunch and restroom facilities.

Susy stated that we talked about the Amphitheater as the possible location for the workshop but we have to decide tonight. Jim Wickis stated he has a baseline plan that he could provide. Dave D'Amico suggested we would need to notify the owners at the Medway Mill and be clear about parking. All agreed that the amphitheatre is a good site for the workshop.

6. Review and approval of Minutes of the January 18, 2018 OSRP Task Force Meeting. It was noted that under the members' present section, Denise Legee's name is misspelled and should be corrected. Also, under section # 2 the word "damn" needs to be corrected to "dam".

Matt Hayes made a motion to accept the amended January 18, 2018 meeting minutes. David Blackwell seconded. All were in favor. * NOTE - Cindy Sullivan and Paul Atwood abstained from the vote as they were not present at that meeting.

7. Other Business

None

8. Adjourn

Cindy Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Denise Legee seconded. All were in favor.

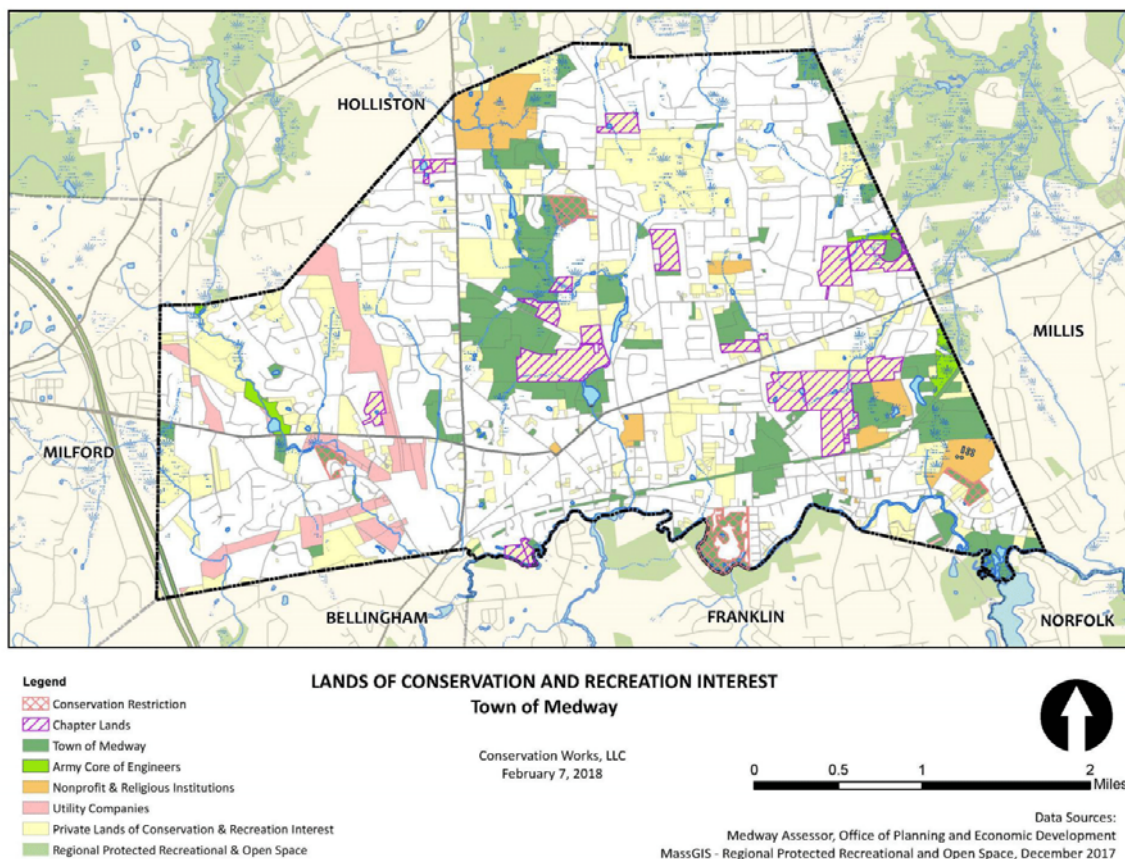
The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

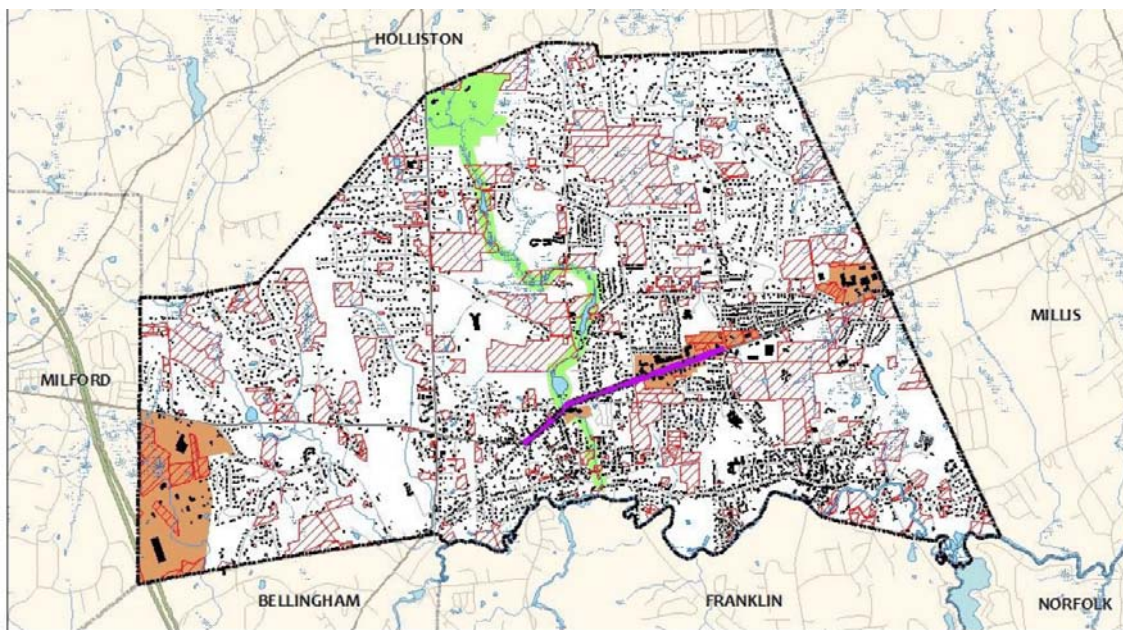
Respectfully submitted,
Tracy Rozak
Recording Secretary

Reviewed and edited by,
Susy E. Affleck-Childs
Planning and Economic Development Coordinator

Open Space Working Maps

February 12, 2018





Legend

- Buildings
- Priority Development Corridor
- 43D Priority Development Sites
- Priority Preservation Sites
- Private Lands of Conservation & Recreation Interest

Priority Preservation and Development Sites Town of Medway

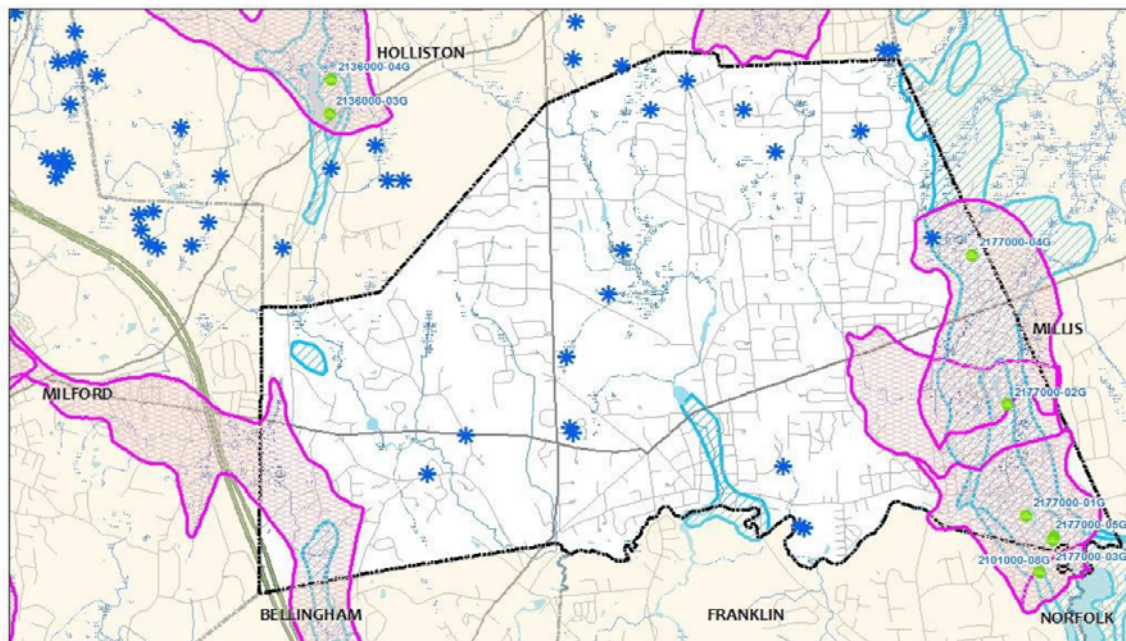
Conservation Works, LLC
February 10, 2018

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Miles



Data Sources:
Medway Community and Economic Development Department
495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, 2012

Water Resources



Legend

- Community Groundwater Source
- Certified Vernal Pools
- DEP Approved Zone IIs
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- Pond, Lake, Ocean
- Reservoir
- Wetland
- Aquifers

Natural Resources Town of Medway

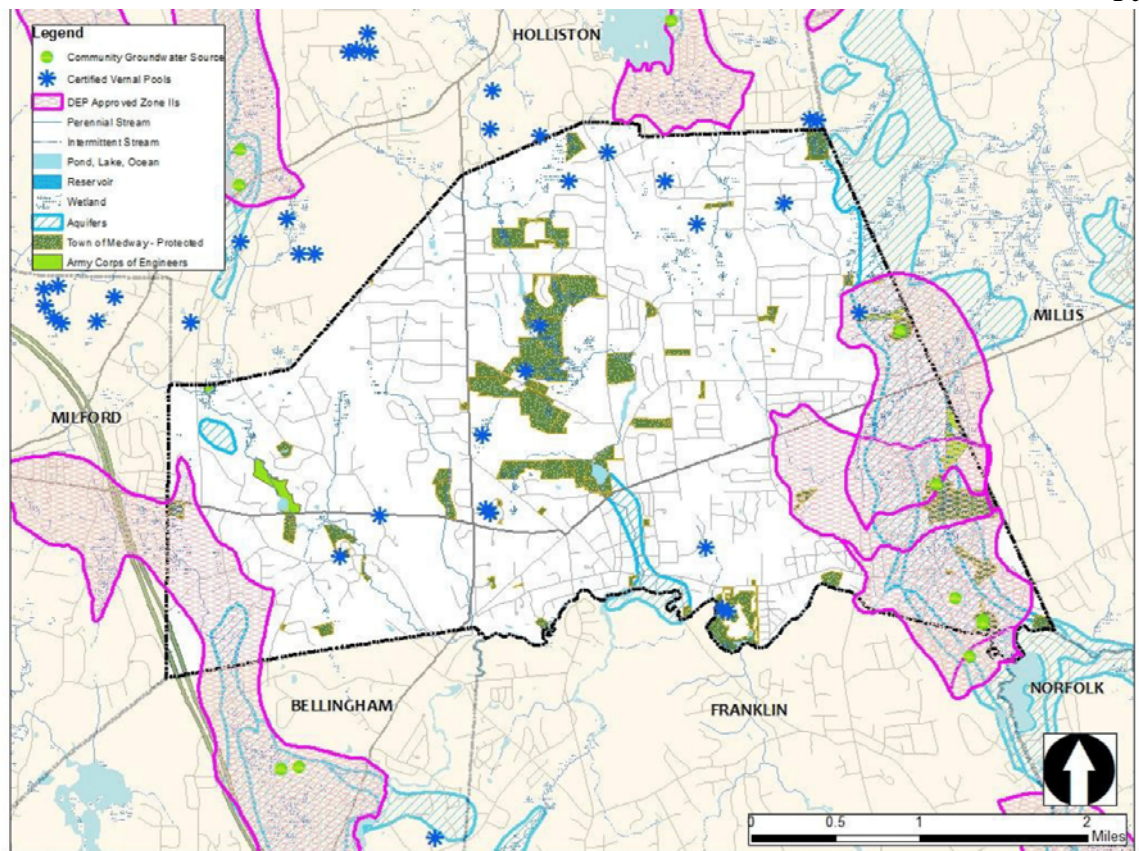
Conservation Works, LLC
February 10, 2018

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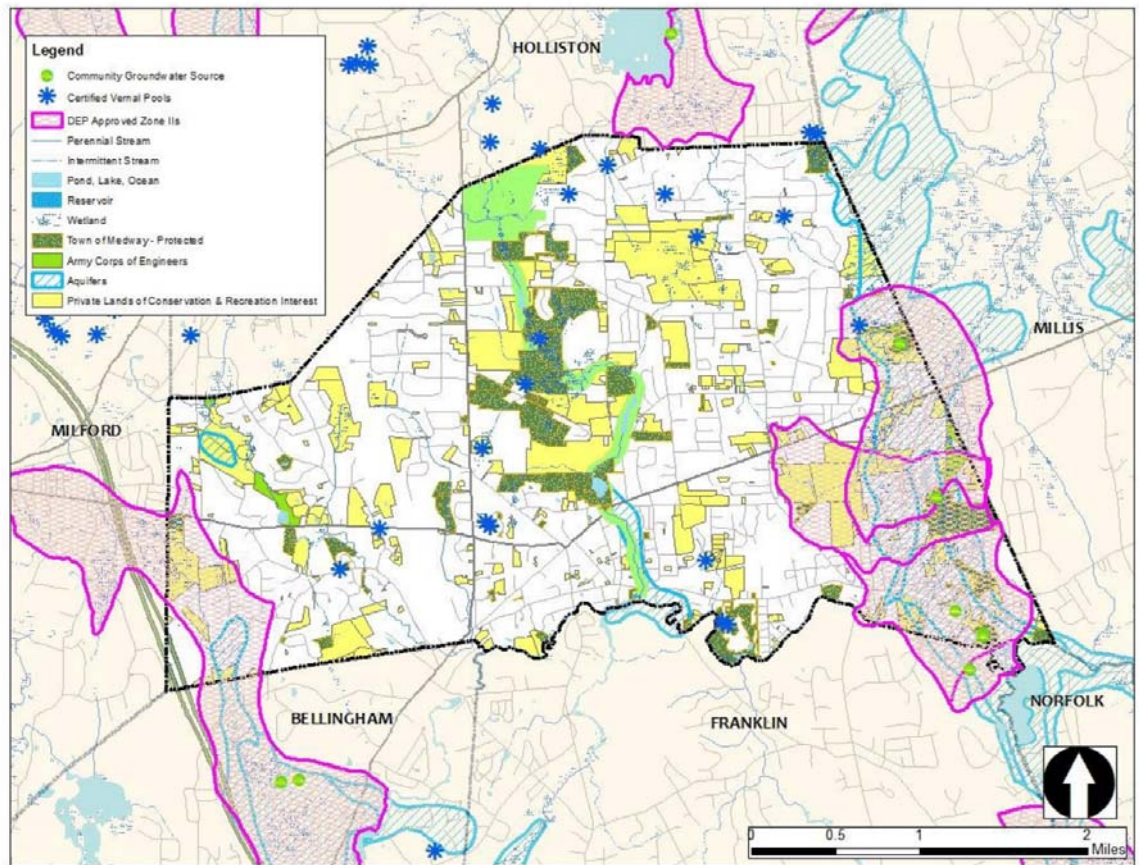


Data Sources:
Medway Community and Economic Development Department
495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, 2012

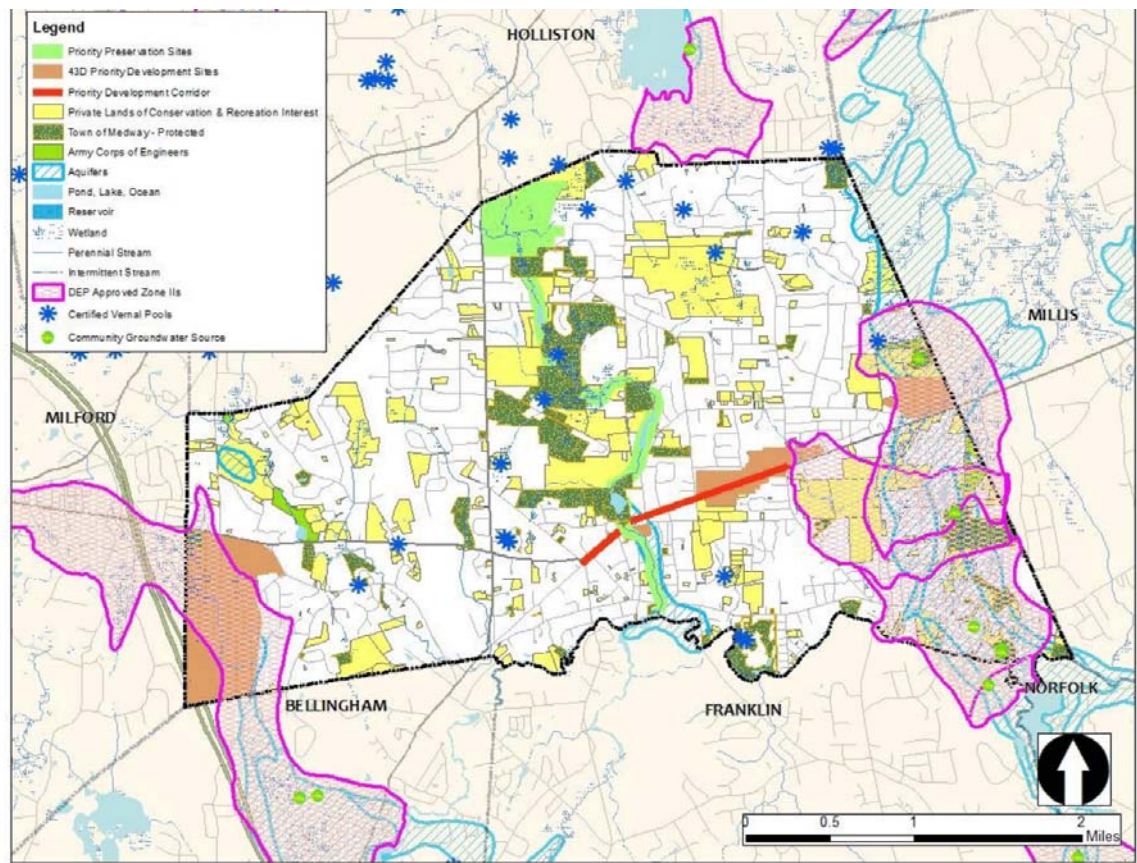
Water Resources and Protected Land



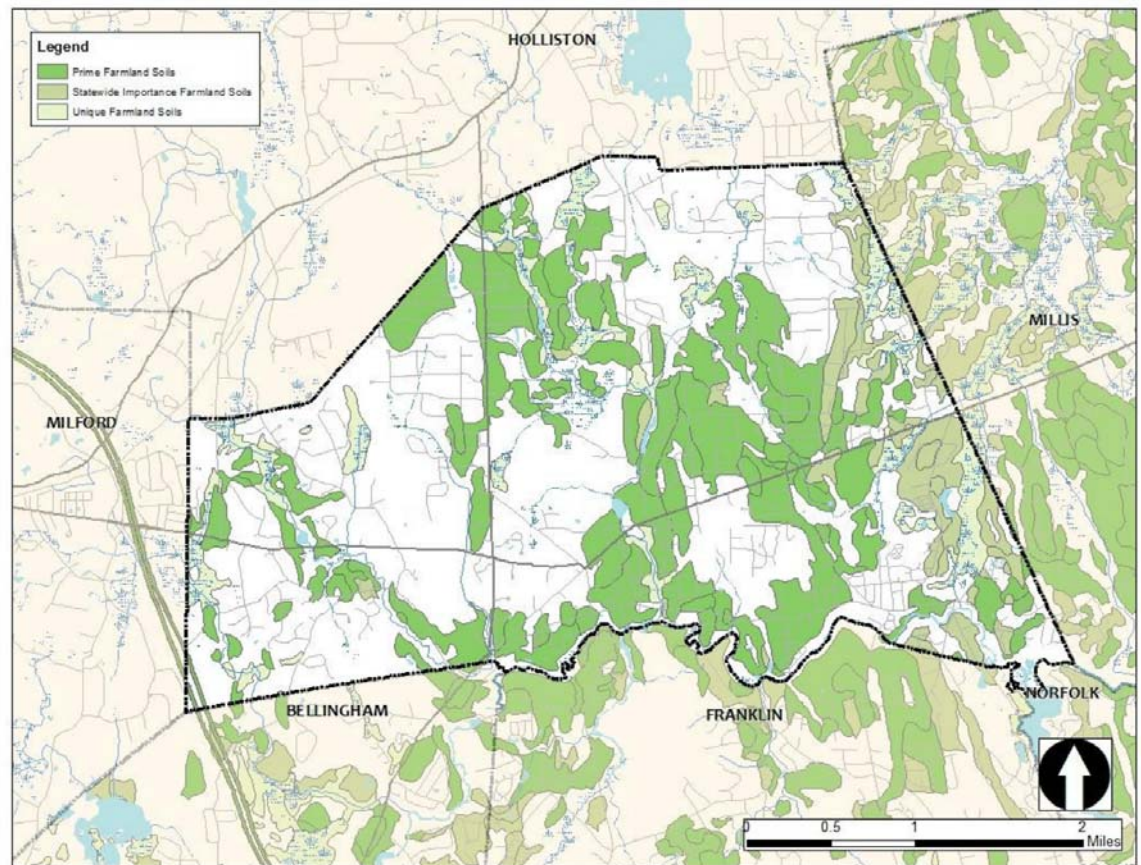
Water Resources, Protected Land, Private Lands of Conservation Interest



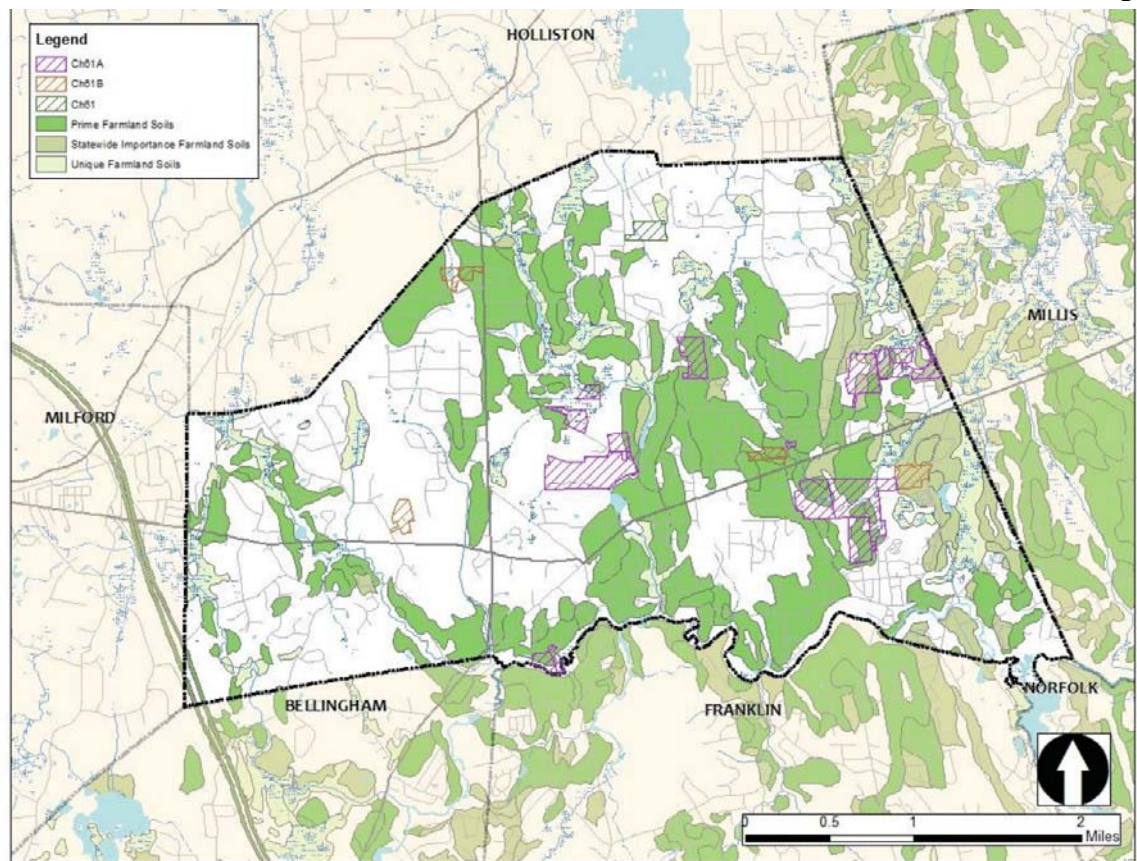
Water Resources and Priority Development Sites



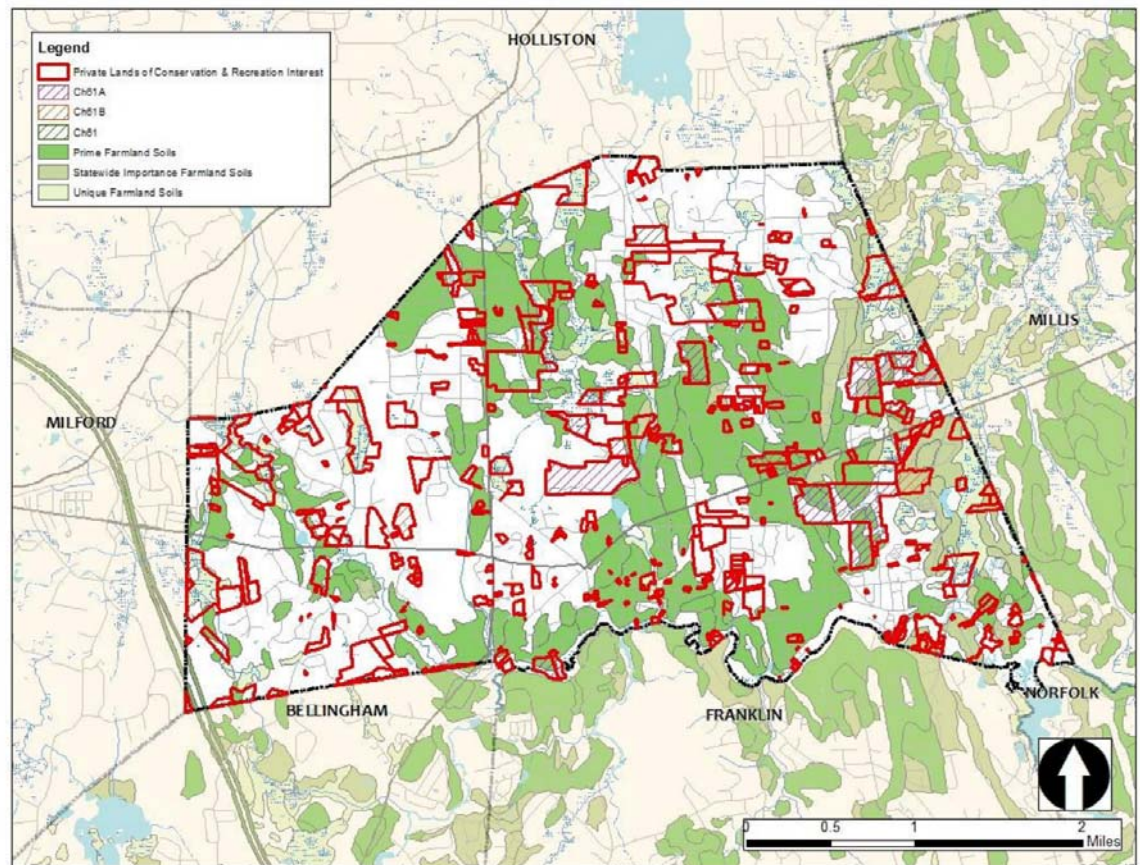
Farmland Soils



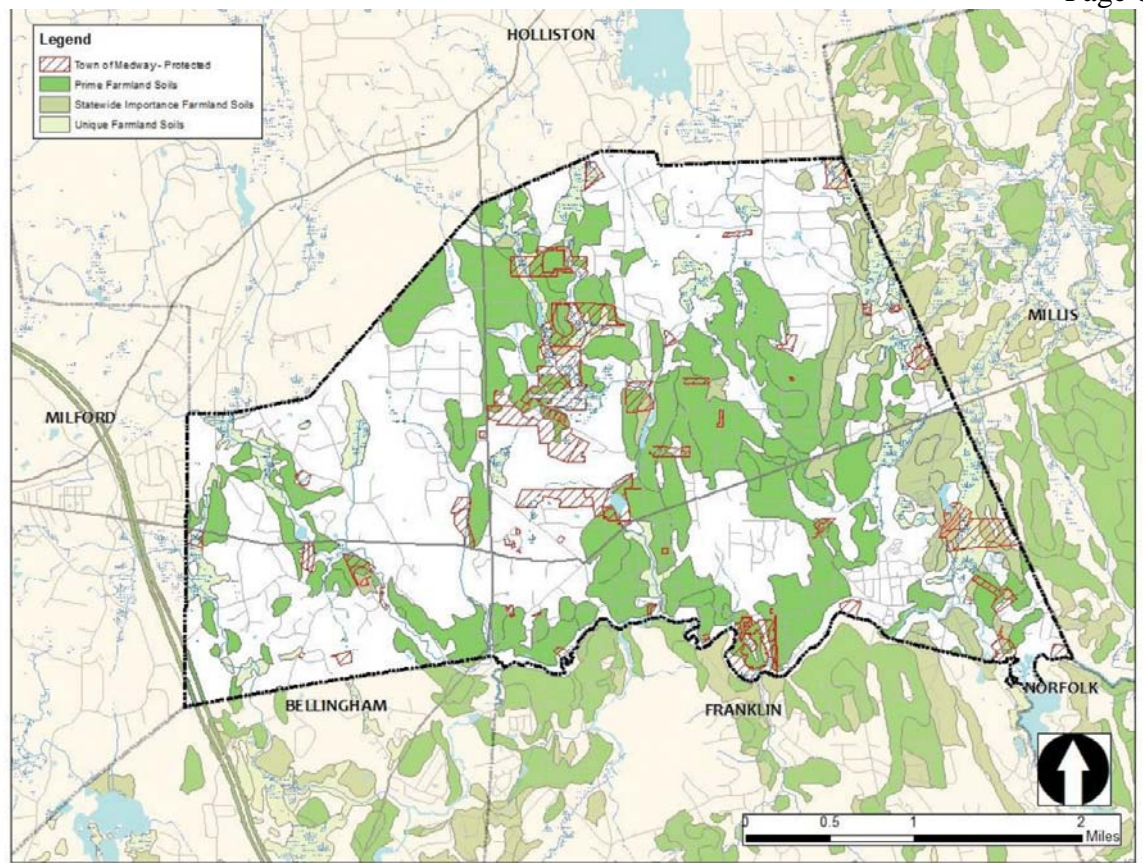
Farmland Soils and Chapter Lands



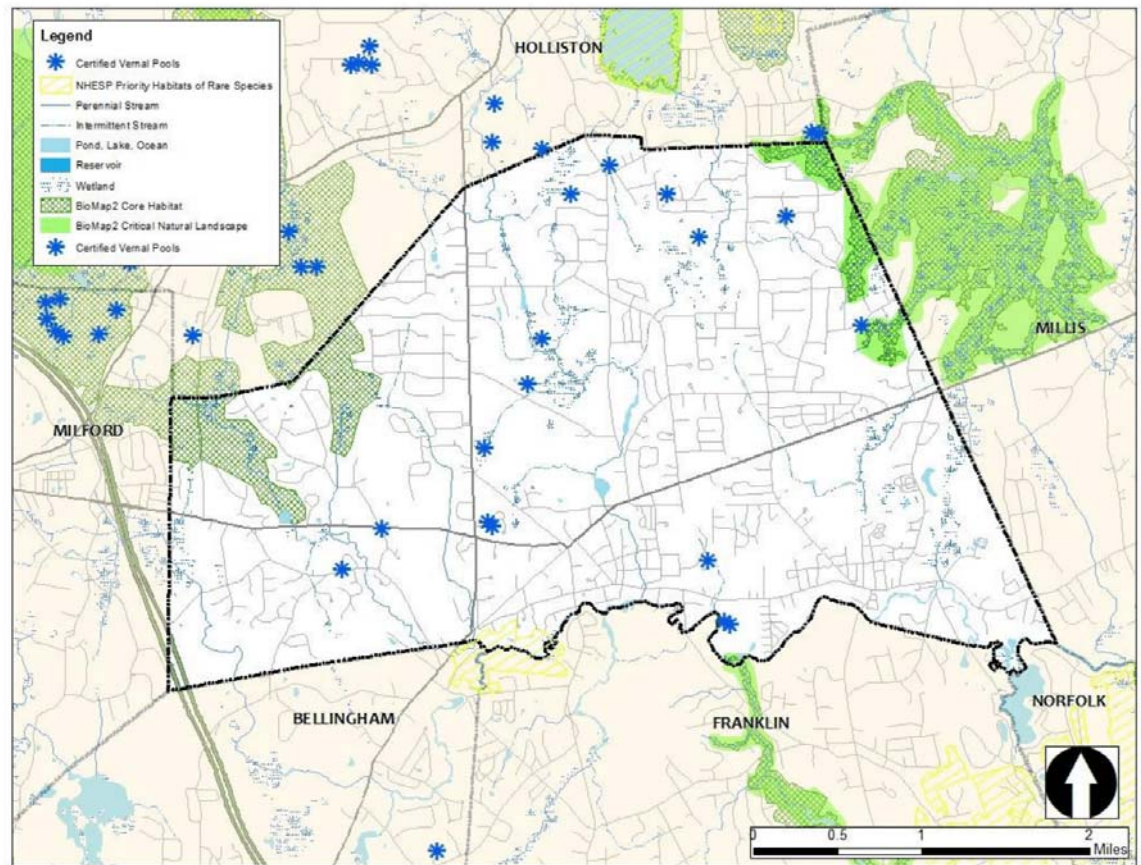
Farmland Soils and Conservation



Farmland Soils and Conservation – Town of Medway Protected



Wildlife Habitat



Wildlife Habitat and Protection Status

